the country. 47 STPI centres have been set up until now. There is an STPI centre at Indore, Madhya Pradesh.

Improvement in quality of service provided by Department of Posts

†2136. SHRI KRIPAL PARMAR: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the fact that performance of private speed post and parcel service is better than that of the Department of Posts;

(b) if so, the steps being taken by Government to improve the performance of the Department; and

(c) the details of progress in this regard so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEELAHMAD): (a) Post offices have a wide range of services. There is a continuous growth in traffic and revenues earned from business of premium products like Speed Post, Business Post, Express Parcel Post and Retail Post. Revenue and traffic figures of premium products during last three years are given in enclosed Statement-I *(See* below).

Likewise, business both in Postal Life Insurance and Rural Postal Life Insurance has also shown an upward trend. Sum assured and premium income in PLI and RPLI during last three years are given in the enclosed Statement-ll (See below).

There is a general increase in savings bank and savings certificate business in post offices also as given in the Statement-Ill *(See* below).

However, there is a decline in traffic pertaining to traditional mail over the years due to advancement of alternative communication media like

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

E-mail, telephone, mobile and internet services and the services provided by private couriers to the public.

(b) The Department has comprehensively inducted technology to meet customer expectations to streamline different operations, to enhance its efficiency and to contain costs. These interventions have been undertaken to improve quality of service.

(c) As already explained in para (a) above.

Statement-I

Revenue and traffic figures of the premium products during last three years

Products	Taraffic (in crore) and revenue (Rs. in crores)					
	2002-03		2003-04		2004-05	
	Traffic	Revenue	Traffic	Revenue	Traffic	Revenue
Speed Post	6.34	243.01	8.27	298.35	9.60	354.16
Business Post	49.58	276.88	65.36	365.11	77.80	473.06
Express Parcel Post	0.58	26.10	0.67	31.45	0.66	37.70
Retail Post	1.15	7.87	4.64	33.65	8.15	50.50

Statement-ll

Sum assured and premium income in PLI and R PLI during last three years

Year	PU		RPLI	
	Sum Assured (Rs. in crores)	Premium Income (Rs. in crores)	Sum Assured (Rs. in crores)	Premium Income (Rs. in crores)
2002-03	2110.21	590.84	3347.94	171.35
2003-04	2846.66	698.17	5949.97	245.32
2004-05	3830.64	904.58	7207.96	380.87

Statement-lll

Statement showing increase in SB and SC work in post offices during the last three years (Amount in Rs.)

Year	Gross funds handled(Deposits & Withdrawal) (Rs. in crores)	No. of saving accounts (all types) in crores	Savings certificate deposits (Rs. in crores)
2002-03	105128	14.91	33190
2003-04	139855	14.42	39166
2004-05	183801	16.15	33718

Threat posed by cheap Chinese mobile sets

2137. SHRI C. PERUMAL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATION AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any threat from cheap Chinese mobile handsets;

(b) if so, whether an action has been taken to include mobile sets in the watch list to counter dumping of cheaper products from China;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the **reasons** therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) No, Sir. Price of mobile handsets depend on its quality, features, brand, etc. and is determined by the market forces.

(b) to (d) Do not arise in view of (a) above.

Schemes of BSNL and MTNL

†2138. SHRI LAXMINARAYAN SHARMA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.